ANNIV ISH: AN ABSOLUTE MUST-HAVE!

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W.i.t.c.h.

173

P 95
July – August 2008

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

POP Quiz
HOW DO YOU REACT WHEN YOU'RE MAD?

ICE Spy...
A spectacular HSM ice show!

It's a CINCH!
Waist-hugging belts to try

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SUMMIT MEDIA

The Dark Summons

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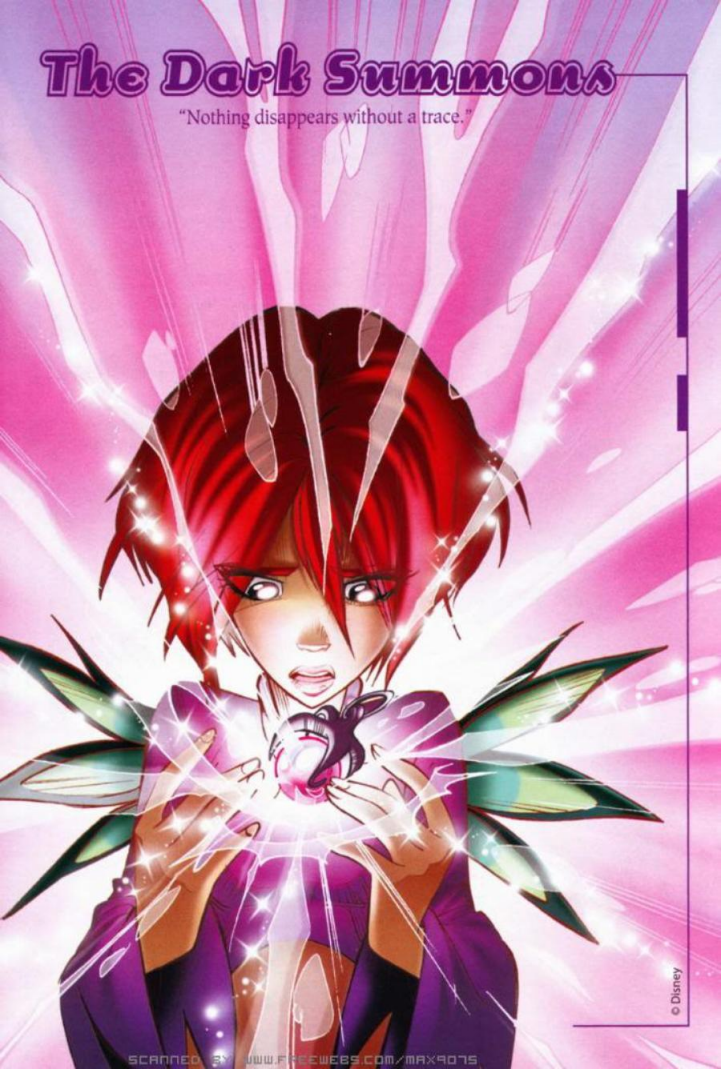
The Dark Summons

"Nothing disappears without a trace."



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A HEARTBEAT. IN THE DARKNESS.
DAYTIME. A PANORAMIC VIEW OF HEATHERFIELD, THE CITY WHERE W.I.T.C.H. LIVES!
STATION
OUR STORIES NORMALLY TAKE PLACE HERE...
...BUT NOT TODAY!
MOVE IT, WILL! YOUR TRAIN IS ON ANOTHER TRACK!

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AND HE TOLD YOU HE'D BE GETTING IN THIS MORNING, WITHOUT ANY ADVANCE WARNING?
HE SENT ME A TEXT MESSAGE, SAYING HE MIGHT STOP BY...

...UNLESS SOMETHING CAME UP AT THE LAST MINUTE!
RIGHT, A TEXT MESSAGE! NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL! GOOD GOING. WHAT A GENTLEMAN!
IN MY DAY, WE HAD FEWER GADGETS TO COMMUNICATE WITH, BUT WE WERE CERTAINLY MORE POETIC!

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THE PERSON YOU ARE CALLING IS BUSY AT THE MOMENT...
NO LUCK! HER CELL PHONE MUST BE SWITCHED OFF!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S BETTER. I'LL HAVE MORE TIME TO GET READY!
WHAT?!
I LEFT MY BEAUTY KIT AT HOME! I CAN'T LEAVE!
RE-LAX, IRMA! WHERE YOU'RE GOING, THERE'LL BE MORE ANIMALS THAN BOYS!
EXACTLY, DAD! I DON'T WANT THOSE WILD BEASTS TO MISTAKE ME FOR ONE OF THEM!
DON'T WORRY! WE CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM IN A JIFFY...

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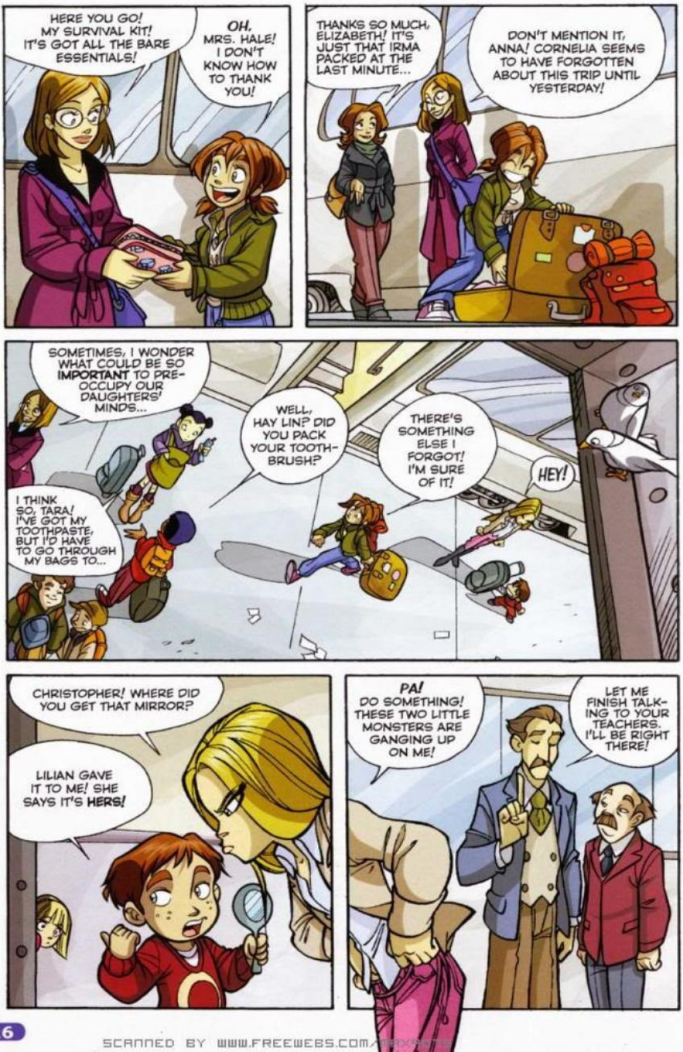
HERE YOU GO! MY SURVIVAL KIT! IT'S GOT ALL THE BARE ESSENTIALS!
OH, MRS. HALE! I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU!
THANKS SO MUCH, ELIZABETH! IT'S JUST THAT IRMA PACKED AT THE LAST MINUTE...
DON'T MENTION IT, ANNA! CORNELIA SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THIS TRIP UNTIL YESTERDAY!
SOMETIMES, I WONDER WHAT COULD BE SO IMPORTANT TO PRE-OCCUPY OUR DAUGHTERS' MINDS...
I THINK SO, TARA! I'VE GOT MY TOOTHPASTE, BUT I'D HAVE TO GO THROUGH MY BAGS TO...
WELL, HAY LIN? DID YOU PACK YOUR TOOTH-BRUSH?
THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE I FORGOT! I'M SURE OF IT!
HEY!
CHRISTOPHER! WHERE DID YOU GET THAT MIRROR?
LILIAN GAVE IT TO ME! SHE SAYS IT'S HERS!
PA! DO SOMETHING! THESE TWO LITTLE MONSTERS ARE GANGING UP ON ME!
LET ME FINISH TALK-ING TO YOUR TEACHERS. I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!

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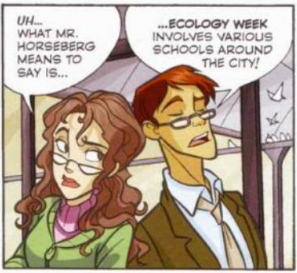
...AND WE'LL REACH NOAH'S ISLE IN ONLY FOUR AND A HALF HOURS!
THAT IS, IF ALL THE PARTICIPANTS SHOW UP! WE RISK MISSING OUR CONNECTING TRAIN!



THIS IS A REAL JOURNEY WITH REAL RESPONSIBILITIES! THAT'S WHY I WANT EVERYTHING TO GO WELL!
ARE YOU AND MISS WARTON THE ONLY TEACHERS FROM SHEFFIELD?

NO, THE SCHOOL PHYSICIAN, DR. FOLKNER, IS COMING ALONG TOO!
THAT'S RIGHT, MRS. COOK! DON'T WORRY...
...YOUR DAUGHTER TARANEE AND HER FRIENDS ARE IN GOOD HANDS!

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SO HOW COME YOU'RE HERE?
I'M HERE WITH MY SCHOOL TOO! REMEMBER?
OH, RIGHT! WE TALKED ABOUT THAT THE LAST TIME WE SAW EACH OTHER AT THE GYM!
EXACTLY! I TRIED TO CALL YOU. I THOUGHT YOU WERE AVOIDING ME!
WHY?
WELL, MAYBE BECAUSE IT'S SWITCHED OFF!
W-WHAT?
IT WON'T TURN ON! WHY THE HECK WON'T IT TURN ON?
WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT JUST MEANS THE BATTERY'S DEAD!
OH, NO! WHY DIDN'T YOU WARN ME, YOU CRUMMY OLD THING?
?

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THE WIND COMING IN FROM THE WINDOW... I COULD'VE COME UP WITH A BETTER EXCUSE, GIVEN THAT AIR IS MY ELEMENT!
IT'S STRANGE. I'M SO EXCITED, AND I REALLY WANTED TO GO ON THIS TRIP... BUT SAYING GOODBYE TO MY PARENTS WAS HARD!
I'M SO SILLY! I WAS EMBARRASSED IN FRONT OF WILL! I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I FEEL SO ALONE TODAY...
I THINK IT'S PARTLY DUE TO THAT CREEP FOLKNER! HIS BEING HERE MAKES ME NERVOUS!
WE KNOW ABOUT HIM AND HE KNOWS ABOUT US! THAT RAGORLANG HUNTER KEEPS FOLLOWING US AROUND FOR SOME REASON!
RAGORLANGS! IT ALL STARTED WITH A NIGHTMARE I HAD! THERE WAS A LONG CORRIDOR, LIKE THIS TRAIN CAR, AND IN THE END...

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"...A SCREAM!"
AAARGH! I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! I SO KNEW IT!
RELAX, IRMA! WE ALL FORGET THINGS ONCE IN A WHILE!
HAH, THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY! YOUR SUPER-EQUIPPED DOME TENT IS BRAND NEW...
...WHILE MY DAD MADE ME BRING HIS "LEGENDARY" TENT THAT'S ANCIENT AND FILLED WITH PATCHES...
...AND HE FORGOT TO PUT IN THE STAKES! SIGH!
AWW, CHEER UP! YOU CAN USE THE CANVAS AS A BLANKET, OR YOU CAN SLEEP IN MY TENT!
HUH? CAN I REALLY?
SURE! JUST KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN ON YOUR SNORING!
IT'LL BE BETTER IF IRMA STAYS WITH ME! I'M AFRAID OF BEING ALL ALONE!

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to-TUMP
ANOTHER HEARTBEAT IN THE DARKNESS.
ANOTHER CHANGE OF SCENERY, BUT THIS TIME WE'RE IN THE FORTRESS OF KANDRAKAR, IN THE CENTER OF INFINITY...
...IN WHAT EVERYONE CALLS THE AURA HALL!
IT IS HERE THAT WE FIND THE FIVE AURAMERES, THAT IS, THE DROPLETS OF MAGICAL ESSENCE...
...WHICH REPRESENT THE POWERS OF W.I.T.C.H.!
OBSERVE, HONORABLE YAN LIN! WHAT DO YOU SEE?

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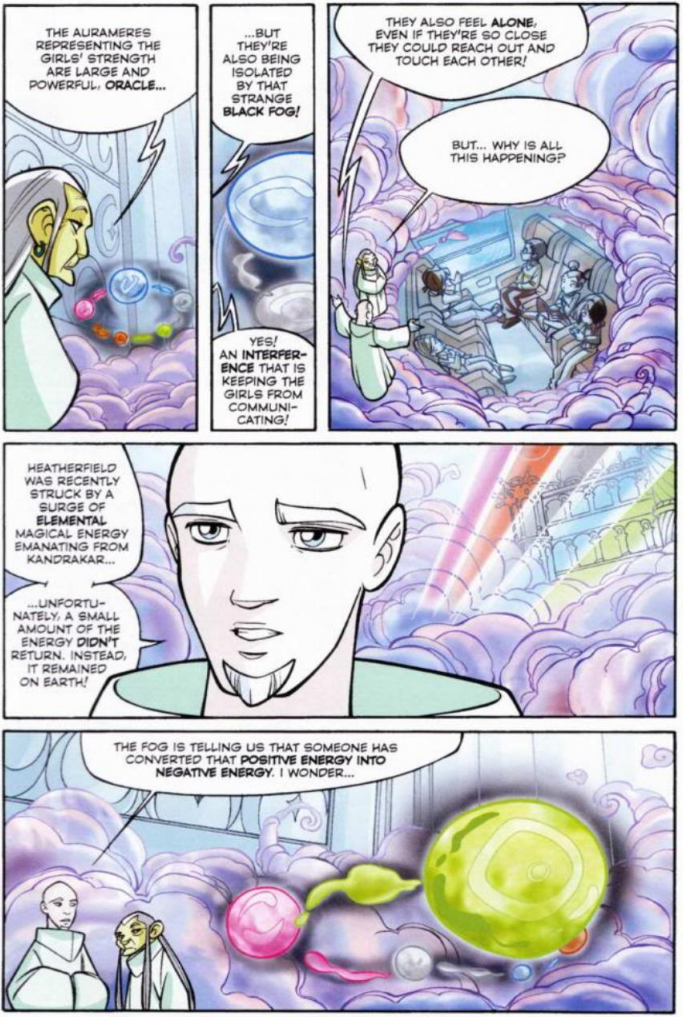
THE AURAMERES REPRESENTING THE GIRLS' STRENGTH ARE LARGE AND POWERFUL, ORACLE...
...BUT THEY'RE ALSO BEING ISOLATED BY THAT STRANGE BLACK FOG!
YES! AN INTERFERENCE THAT IS KEEPING THE GIRLS FROM COMMUNICATING!
THEY ALSO FEEL ALONE, EVEN IF THEY'RE SO CLOSE THEY COULD REACH OUT AND TOUCH EACH OTHER!
BUT... WHY IS ALL THIS HAPPENING?
HEATHERFIELD WAS RECENTLY STRUCK BY A SURGE OF ELEMENTAL MAGICAL ENERGY EMANATING FROM KANDRAKAR...
...UNFORTUNATELY, A SMALL AMOUNT OF THE ENERGY DIDN'T RETURN. INSTEAD, IT REMAINED ON EARTH!
THE FOG IS TELLING US THAT SOMEONE HAS CONVERTED THAT POSITIVE ENERGY INTO NEGATIVE ENERGY. I WONDER...

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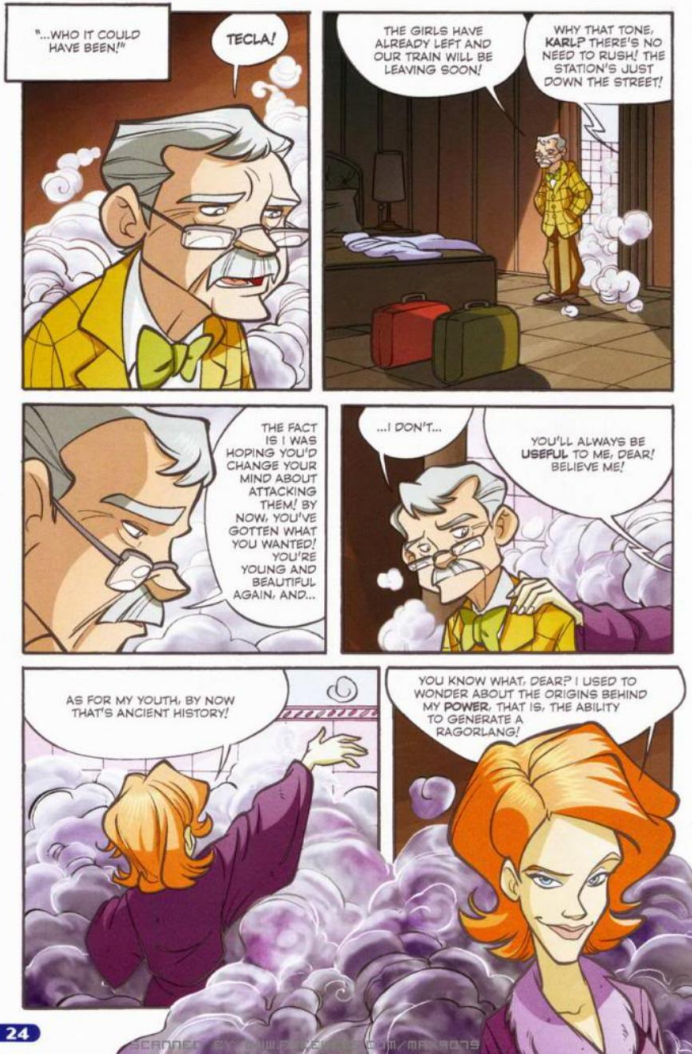
"...WHO IT COULD HAVE BEEN!"
TECLA!
THE GIRLS HAVE ALREADY LEFT AND OUR TRAIN WILL BE LEAVING SOON!
WHY THAT TONE, KARL? THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH! THE STATION'S JUST DOWN THE STREET!
THE FACT IS I WAS HOPING YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT ATTACKING THEM! BY NOW, YOU'VE GOTTEN WHAT YOU WANTED! YOU'RE YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL AGAIN, AND...
...I DON'T...
YOU'LL ALWAYS BE USEFUL TO ME, DEAR! BELIEVE ME!
AS FOR MY YOUTH, BY NOW THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY!
YOU KNOW WHAT, DEAR? I USED TO WONDER ABOUT THE ORIGINS BEHIND MY POWER. THAT IS, THE ABILITY TO GENERATE A RAGORLANG!

NOW I'M CERTAIN: IT WAS A MAGICAL ABILITY! AN ABILITY THAT, BY SOME MIRACLE, WAS RECENTLY AMPLIFIED!
LOOK! NOW I CAN CONJURE UP NOT ONE, BUT FIVE RAGORLANGS! DOESN'T THAT MAKE YOU THINK OF SOMETHING?
FIVE! JUST LIKE THE GIRLS!
EXACTLY! AND LOOK AT THEM... EACH RAGORLANG HAS A DIFFERENT SYMBOL ON ITS CHEST!
THE ENERGY FLOWING THROUGH THESE CREATURES IS THE SAME ONE WITHIN OUR FIVE YOUNG ENEMIES! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
MY MONSTERS ARE HUNGRY, KARL! A SIMPLE MEAL OF HUMANS WON'T SATISFY THEM ANYMORE!

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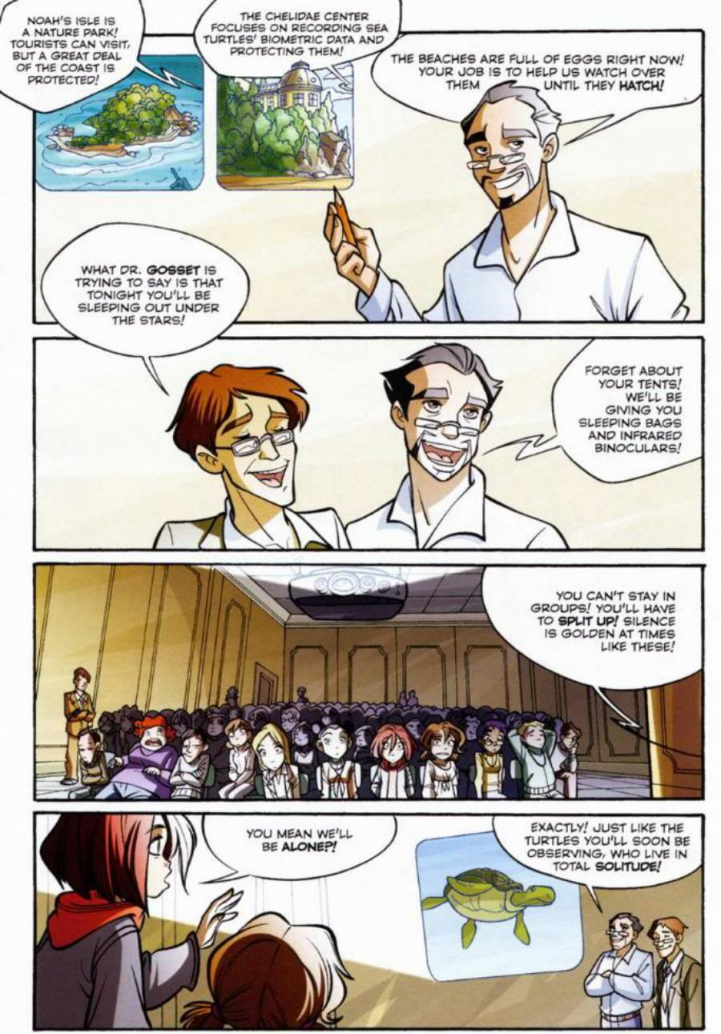
NOAH'S ISLE IS A NATURE PARK! TOURISTS CAN VISIT, BUT A GREAT DEAL OF THE COAST IS PROTECTED!
THE CHELIDAE CENTER FOCUSES ON RECORDING SEA TURTLES' BIOMETRIC DATA AND PROTECTING THEM!
THE BEACHES ARE FULL OF EGGS RIGHT NOW! YOUR JOB IS TO HELP US WATCH OVER THEM UNTIL THEY **HATCH!**
WHAT DR. **GOSSET** IS TRYING TO SAY IS THAT TONIGHT YOU'LL BE SLEEPING OUT UNDER THE STARS!
FORGET ABOUT YOUR TENTS! WE'LL BE GIVING YOU SLEEPING BAGS AND INFRARED BINOCULARS!
YOU CAN'T STAY IN GROUPS! YOU'LL HAVE TO **SPLIT UP!** SILENCE IS GOLDEN AT TIMES LIKE THESE!
YOU MEAN WE'LL BE **ALONE?!**
EXACTLY! JUST LIKE THE TURTLES YOU'LL SOON BE OBSERVING, WHO LIVE IN TOTAL **SOLITUDE!**

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WITH THIS EXPERIENCE, WE WANT TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT SOLITUDE IS A NATURAL CONDITION! IT'S A PART OF LIFE FOR ALL OF US.
"A LIFE THAT, HERE ON THE ISLAND, BEATS LIKE A HIDDEN HEART! THE HEART OF THE WORLD, CONJURED UP BY THE FOUR ELEMENTS!"
"YOU'LL DISCOVER THAT IT'S EASIER TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF THE WATER HERE, LETTING YOURSELF BE LULLED BY THE ENDLESS LAPPING OF THE WAVES..."
"IT'S EASIER TO APPRECIATE AIR AND UNDERSTAND THAT IT COMES FROM THE DEEP BREATHING OF OUR PLANET..."
"ALL THIS WHILE THE EARTH REMINDS US THAT EVEN ROCK IS BROKEN DOWN BY TIME..."
"...AND THAT FIRE, WHICH IS BEHIND THE ORIGINS OF EVERYTHING, IN SOME WAY EVEN BURNS IN THE WARM GLOW OF MOONBEAMS!"

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WOW! HOW STRANGE... TONIGHT, I FEEL LIKE THE WAY SHE DID WHEN WE STARTED THIS ADVENTURE! UPSET AND A LITTLE SAD!
BUT I SHOULD BE HAPPY! I'VE CHANGED! I FOLLOWED MY INSTINCTS AND PASSIONS! NOW I'VE GOT DANCING AND NEW PALS...
BUT PASSIONS ARE LIKE FIRE... SOONER OR LATER THEY TEND TO DIE OUT! WILL THAT HAPPEN TO ME, TOO?
IT WON'T HAPPEN! I'VE GOT TO KEEP MY FEET ON THE GROUND! I COULD NEVER BE WITH PETER!
EVEN IF I COULD. WHAT FUTURE WOULD WE HAVE TOGETHER? IF HE FINDS OUT ABOUT MY POWERS. HOW WOULD HE REACT?
...AND LOVE. WHEN IT'S FROM A DISTANCE, IS AS FICKLE AS THE WIND! JUST LOOK AT MATT AND WILA!
MAYBE THAT MAN'S RIGHT. SOLITUDE IS A NATURAL CONDITION. SO I'D BETTER GET USED TO IT!
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO ALL THIS! MY LOVE LIFE SLIPS AWAY QUICKER THAN WATER THROUGH MY FINGERS!
BOTH OF THEM. MAYBE! MY PARENTS WON'T ALWAYS BE THERE EVERY TIME I BOARD A TRAIN...
WHAT AM I REALLY AFRAID OF? ENDING UP ALONE OR LOSING MY FRIENDSHIP WITH ERIC?
NOT TO MENTION SCHOOL! I'VE NEVER GOTTEN GREAT GRADES AND I'M AFRAID OF DISAPPOINTING MOM AND DAD!
THE OTHER GIRLS HAVE ALL FOUND THEIR SOUL MATES. WHILE MY LIFE IS FULL OF MISSED OPPORTUNITIES!

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WILL!
?
NEIL! YOU SCARED ME! I WAS DEEP IN THOUGHT!
YEAH. THIS PLACE SURE MAKES YOU THINK, DOESN'T IT?
HOW COME YOU'RE HERE? WE'RE ALL SUPPOSED TO BE ALONE SO WE DON'T SCARE THE ANIMALS!
WHAT A BUNCH OF BALONEY! SOLITUDE, THE FOUR PRIMORDIAL ELEMENTS... BLAH, BLAH, BLAH...
AS FOR MY BEING HERE, HAVEN'T YOU FIGURED IT OUT YET? I WANTED TO TAKE THIS TRIP... WITH YOU!
LISTEN! FOR A WHILE NOW I'VE WANTED TO TELL YOU SOMETHING AND THIS MIGHT BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO...
SHHH!
PLEASE, NEIL! DON'T DO IT! I... I DON'T WANT TO RUIN OUR FRIENDSHIP! YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?

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I KNOW YOUR HEART BEATS FOR SOMEONE ELSE AND I KNOW HOW TO STAND ASIDE TOO. BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT YOU TO KNOW, WILL...
...WHEN YOU NEED ME, I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING...
...TO MY...
...HEART...
"SOMETIMES, YOU JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW IT!"

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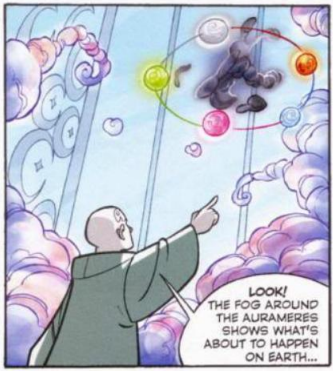

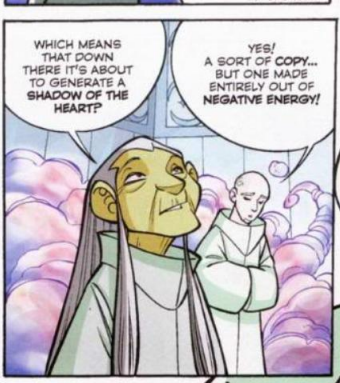
WHICH MEANS THAT DOWN THERE IT'S ABOUT TO GENERATE A SHADOW OF THE HEART?
YES! A SORT OF COPY... BUT ONE MADE ENTIRELY OUT OF NEGATIVE ENERGY!

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"...SUMMONS ANOTHER!"
FRUSH!
FOLKNER! WHAT DO YOU WANT?
RELAX, KID! I COME IN PEACE!
I WANT TO HELP YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS!
YEAH, RIGHT! YOU JUST WANT TO CAPTURE TECLA IBSEN'S RAGORLANG!
THAT'S TRUE! THAT WOMAN'S OBSESSED WITH YOU GIRLS...
...WHICH IS WHY I'M FOLLOWING YOU!
I THINK WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AND...
?
...FOR EXAMPLE, START LOOKING FOR YOUR FRIEND WILL, WHO'S JUST DISAPPEARED!

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LOOK! SHE LEFT HER STUFF HERE!
GUYS! I CAN'T EVEN CONTACT HER MENTALLY! THERE'S SOMETHING...
"...SOMETHING KEEPING US FROM COMMUNICATING!"
YOU WORM! IF YOU'VE HURT HER, I'LL...
THINK ABOUT IT! HOW COULD I? EACH ONE OF YOU GIRLS COULD ANNIHILATE ME WITH A SNAP OF YOUR FINGERS!
LIKE I TOLD YOU, I SAW WILL FOLLOWING THAT STRANGE GLOWING JEWEL...
...AND HEADING INTO THE FOREST!
THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR!

THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!
CRR
Can
CR
HISSSHHH
DO YOU THINK WE CAN TRUST FOLKNER?
LIKE A FOX IN A HENHOUSE!
IN ANY CASE, HE SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND HIS WAY THROUGH THIS TANGLE OF TREES IN THE MOONLIGHT!
WELL, I'M A HUNTER, AFTER ALL!
DON'T BE SURPRISED! I CAN HEAR THE SOFTEST WHISPERS. I CAN ALSO SENSE THAT TECLA'S SOMEWHERE NEAR!
?!
THAT'S WHY I'M HELPING YOU! I KNOW YOU'RE POWERFUL AND I WANT YOU TO LET ME USE THIS WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT!
THE BOX?
IT'S A RAGORLANG TRAP!

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SHHHHH...
BE QUIET AND LISTEN!
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING!
EXACTLY! THE FOREST SUDDENLY WENT SILENT! DOESN'T THAT TELL YOU ANYTHING?
GULP!
A RA... A RA... RA...
WHAT'S WRONG, IRMA? DID YOU SEE A RACCOON OR SOMETHING?
HERE YOU ARE!

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ARE YOU SURE IT'S HER?
OF COURSE! YOU CAN PUT YOUR MONSTER BEAUTY KIT BACK IN YOUR HANDBAG!
IT WAS RESTLESS, IMPATIENT! I HAD A HARD TIME REABSORBING IT INTO THE PALM OF MY HAND!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? WHY'D YOU DISAPPEAR LIKE THAT?
I... I DON'T KNOW! I'M STILL CONFUSED! THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR MADE ME FOLLOW IT!
SOMETHING WAS PULLING IT OVER IN THAT DIRECTION!
THEN YOU STOPPED JUST IN TIME, KID!
THAT'S DEFINITELY TECLA'S HUSBAND, KARL IBSEN! SHE MIGHT BE IN THAT TENT TOO!

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I'LL GO FIRST! I WANT TO TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE! YOU GUYS... WELL, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT!
WAIT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU GUYS FIRST! WHILE THE HEART WAS LEADING ME HERE, I HAD A TERRIBLE FEELING!
THINK ABOUT IT! WE'RE UPSET, DISTANT, LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM EACH OTHER... AND THAT'S NOT NORMAL!
ACTUALLY, I'VE HAD IT EVER SINCE WE STARTED THIS TRIP! WE HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE TO TALK, TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER...
I'VE NEVER BEEN AFRAID OF THE UNKNOWN BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS FACED IT WITH YOU GUYS! THAT'S WHY TONIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...JUST REMEMBER THAT WE'RE A TEAM! WE'RE ONE AND THE SAME!

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STUPID GIRLS! THEY'RE WASTING TIME BLABBING INSTEAD OF KEEPING GUARD...
AH!
SUCK
THUMP
THUMP
OH. NO! MY...
...RAGORLANG TRAP! I HEARD WHAT YOU CALLED IT BACK IN THE WOODS!
BUT I IMAGINE YOU'LL NEED MORE THAN JUST ONE OF THAT TONIGHT! DON'T YOU AGREE, DR. FOLKNER?

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Y-YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
YOU'VE BEEN FOLLOWING ME FOR A LONG TIME, TO MANY CITIES... JUST AS YOU CAN SENSE MY PRESENCE, I CAN SENSE YOURS TOO!
SPEAKING OF PRESENCES, COME ON OUT, GIRLS! OR WERE YOU PLANNING ON TAKING ME BY SURPRISE?
AT LAST! I WAS HOPING TO LURE YOU INTO A SECLUDED AREA!
WHICH MEANS YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO CHAT!
W.I.T.C.H.! YOU WITH ME?
ALL THE WAY, WILL!
POWER OF AIR!
POWER OF FIRE!
I NEED TO ACT NOW, BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
HEART OF KANDRAKAR!
PLEASE, DO YOUR THING AND DON'T ABANDON ME NOW, OF ALL TIMES...

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YOU MUST BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GUARDIANS...
...WELL, THE FIRST ONE IS NOW DROWNING IN THE SEA, IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE ONLY RAGORLANG CAPABLE OF COUNTERING HER POWER...
THE SECOND IS STRUGGLING IN THE DEPTHS OF A DARK CAVE, IN THE COMPANY OF A CREATURE MADE JUST FOR HER...
I SENT THE THIRD TO THE MIDDLE OF A STARRY YET STORMY SKY...
...WHILE THE FOURTH ENDED UP IN A PLACE WHERE IT'S EASY TO GET FIRED UP...

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YOU SPLIT THEM UP! HOW DID YOU MANAGE TO DO THAT?
SIMPLE! MY NEW CREATURES HAVE INCREDIBLE TELEPORTATION POWERS! AS FOR YOU, FOLKNER...
SOCK
...I MIGHT BE YOUNG NOW, BUT I CERTAINLY CAN'T ATTACK YOU MYSELF! AFTER ALL, I'M STILL A LADY...
FIND THE RAGORLANG TRAP! IT'S SOMEWHERE IN THOSE BUSHES!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOST POWERFUL GIRL IN THE GROUP?
RELAX! WILL'S DOWN THERE AND I THINK SHE'S GOT A GREAT DEAL ON HER HANDS RIGHT NOW!

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SBAM
UGH!
ALONE!
WE'RE ALONE AGAIN! AT THE MERCY OF OUR FEARS!
FAR AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT, FROM OUR SECURITY... EVEN FROM OUR POWER, WHICH THESE MONSTERS SEEM TO BE REPRODUCING!
BUT THEN AGAIN, THEIRS IS ONLY A REPRODUCTION...
...AND THERE ARE SOME TRICKS THEY CAN'T IMITATE!
SHAAAAM

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"THERE! NOW THAT I'VE GOT A MOMENT OF PEACE, I NEED TO CONTACT TARANEE! SHE'S THE MOST TELEPATHIC!"
KRAM
KRAAAM
"I CAN'T HEAR HER! SHE MUST'VE FIGURED OUT BY NOW THAT IF YOU USE YOUR POWER..."
FLOP
FLOMP
WAAAMP
"...YOU'LL GET IT BACK WITH INTEREST!"
VUUOSH
"I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING FROM HAY LIN OR THE OTHERS. WE'RE ALL ISOLATED."
"I JUST HOPE THEY FIND A MOMENT OF PEACE NOW, TOO..."
"...BECAUSE TO GET INTO CONTACT, I'M SURE ALL WE NEED IS TIME TO REMEMBER THAT..."
KARUUUN
SHAAAAFF

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ORACLE! THE GIRLS' AURAMERES...
YES! THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE DARK BARRIER CREATED BY THE NEGATIVE ENERGY!
...AT LAST!
REJOICE, YAN LIN! CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE AGAIN...
THIS GROUP NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME! THE FEELING OF FRIENDSHIP THAT UNITES THEM CAN OVERCOME ANY PHYSICAL OR MAGICAL OBSTACLE!

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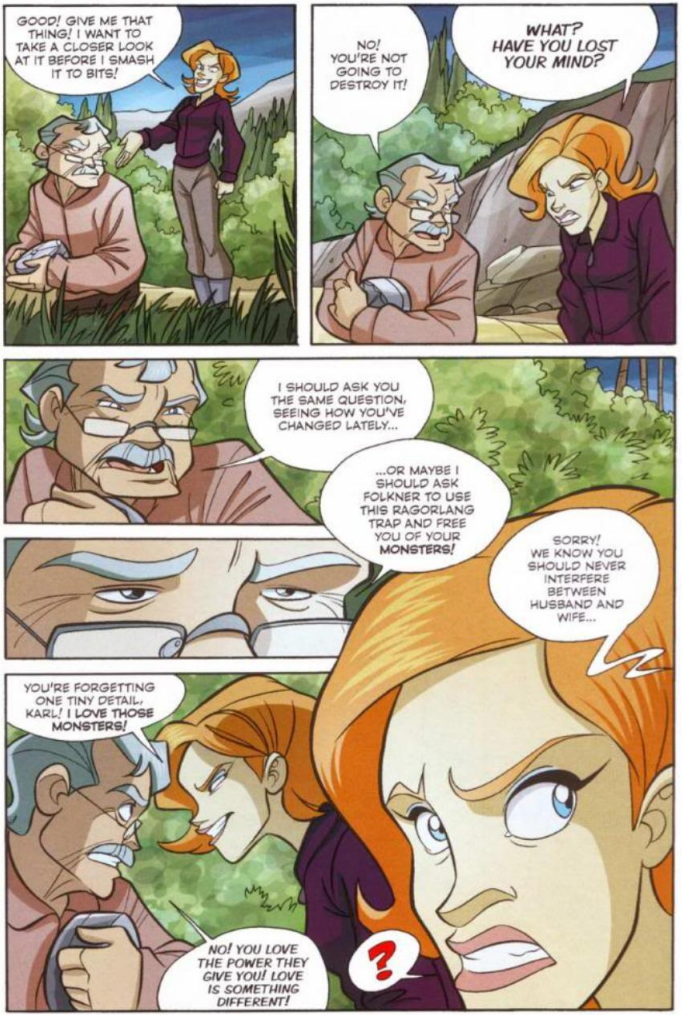
GOOD! GIVE ME THAT THING! I WANT TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT IT BEFORE I SMASH IT TO BITS!
NO! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DESTROY IT!
WHAT? HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?
I SHOULD ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION, SEEING HOW YOU'VE CHANGED LATELY...
...OR MAYBE I SHOULD ASK FOLKNER TO USE THIS RAGORLANG TRAP AND FREE YOU OF YOUR MONSTERS!
SORRY! WE KNOW YOU SHOULD NEVER INTERFERE BETWEEN HUSBAND AND WIFE...
YOU'RE FORGETTING ONE TINY DETAIL, KARL! I LOVE THOSE MONSTERS!
NO! YOU LOVE THE POWER THEY GIVE YOU! LOVE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
?

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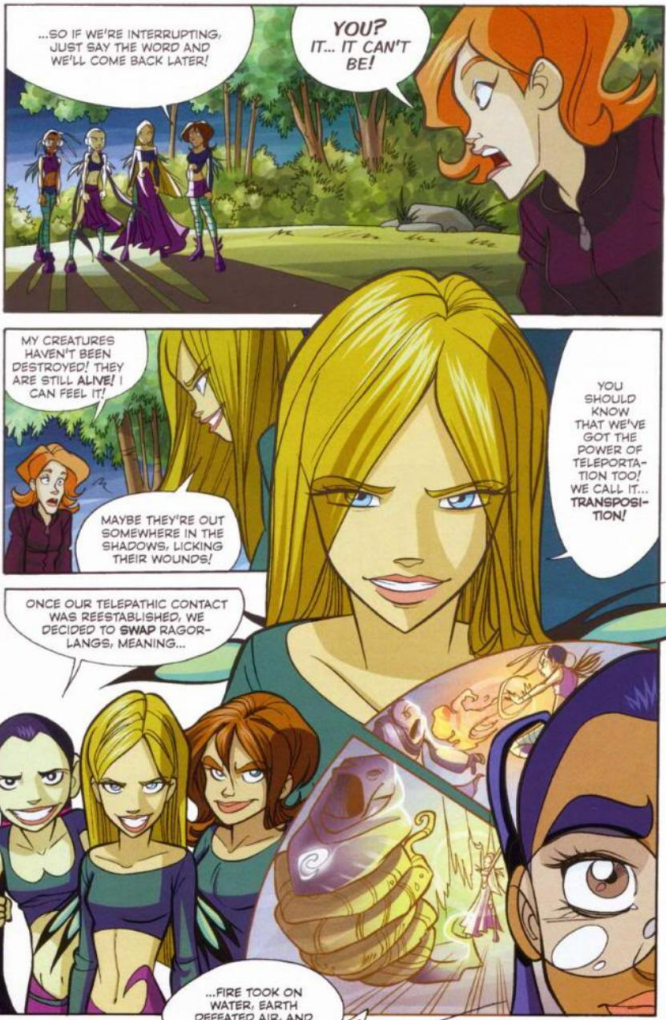
...SO IF WE'RE INTERRUPTING, JUST SAY THE WORD AND WE'LL COME BACK LATER!
YOU? IT... IT CAN'T BE!
MY CREATURES HAVEN'T BEEN DESTROYED! THEY ARE STILL ALIVE! I CAN FEEL IT!
MAYBE THEY'RE OUT SOMEWHERE IN THE SHADOWS, LICKING THEIR WOUNDS!
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT WE'VE GOT THE POWER OF TELEPORTATION TOO! WE CALL IT... TRANSPOSITION!
ONCE OUR TELEPATHIC CONTACT WAS REESTABLISHED, WE DECIDED TO SWAP RAGORLANGS, MEANING...
...FIRE TOOK ON WATER, EARTH DEFEATED AIR, AND SO ON...

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BUT THERE ARE ONLY FOUR OF YOU! WHERE'S WILL?
I'M RIGHT HERE!
AAAARGH!
SHAAATRRR
TECLA!
I'M SORRY! I'VE ALREADY STRUCK HER DOWN THAT WAY BEFORE...
...BUT THERE WASN'T ANY OTHER SOLUTION. TO DESTROY HER RAGORLANGS, I HAD TO ATTACK HER!

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TECLA! OH, TECLA! WHY DIDN'T YOU LISTEN TO ME?
OH, YOU'RE SUCH A ROMANTIC, JUST LIKE ALWAYS!
COUGH! COUGH!
I'VE ALREADY EXPLAINED WHY!
?
BUT... HOW...
SURPRISED? BUT YOU SHOULD'VE ALREADY KNOWN THAT I'M NO LONGER THE SAME WOMAN YOU DEFEATED BEFORE...
SHAAA
SHAAA
...AND THAT MY RAGORLANGE HAVE CHANGED A GREAT DEAL TOO!
YES, THEY'RE BACK! THEY WERE THE ONES THAT GAVE ME THE STRENGTH TO RESIST YOUR ATTACK! AFTER ALL, WE SHARE THE SAME ENERGY...

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THE FIVE RAGORLANGS MERGE TOGETHER AND CREATE A SINGLE, IMMENSE, DANGEROUS CREATURE!
EVEN THE SYMBOLS OF THE ELEMENTS COMBINE ON ITS CHEST...
...THE MONSTER MOVES FORWARD, SWALLOWING UP THE AIR...
...KILLING THE GRASS...
...ABSORBING WATER...
...AND CHILLING THE EARTH IT TRAMPLES ON...

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TU-TUMP
ONCE AGAIN, A HEARTBEAT. BUT THIS TIME, IT ISN'T COMING FROM THE DARKNESS...
...IT'S COMING FROM THE CHEST OF THE GIGANTIC RAGORLANG, IN THE VERY SPOT WHERE THE SYMBOLS OF THE ELEMENTS HAVE FUSED TOGETHER!
TU-TUMP
FULL OF NEGATIVE ENERGY, THESE SYMBOLS HAVE GENERATED THE FAMOUS HEART SHADOW...
TU-TUMP
HSSSSSHIII!
...AND, AS THE ORACLE SAID IN THE AURA HALL BACK IN KANDRAKAR, ONE HEART...
WOMSH!
...SUMMONS ANOTHER HEART!
?!
WOOOSSSH!

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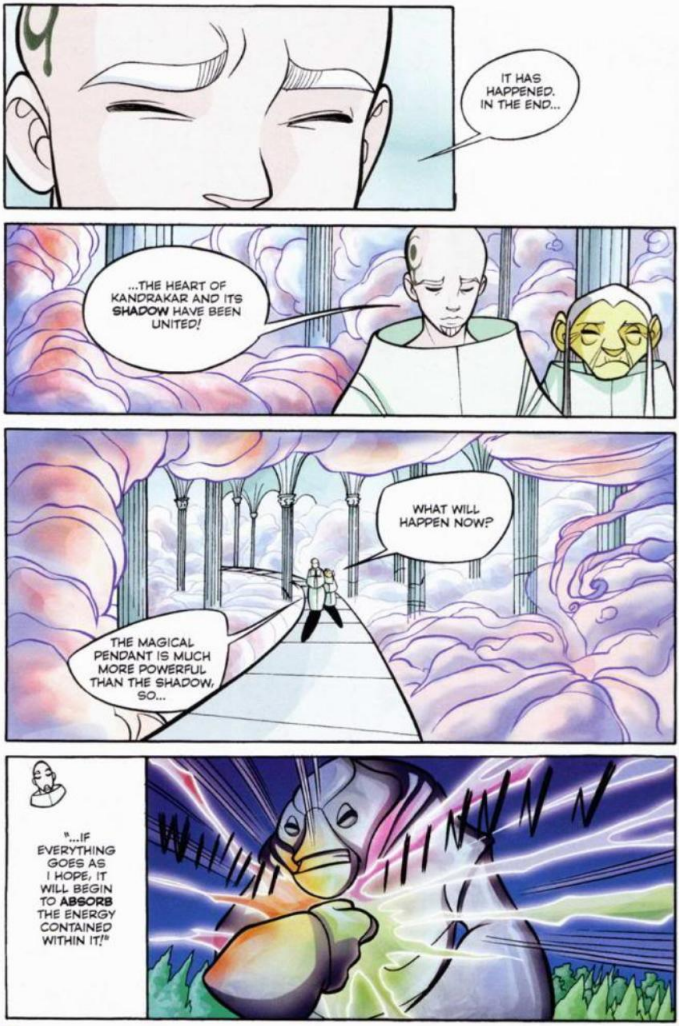
IT HAS HAPPENED. IN THE END...
...THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR AND ITS SHADOW HAVE BEEN UNITED!
WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?
THE MAGICAL PENDANT IS MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN THE SHADOW. SO...
"...IF EVERYTHING GOES AS I HOPE, IT WILL BEGIN TO ABSORB THE ENERGY CONTAINED WITHIN IT!"

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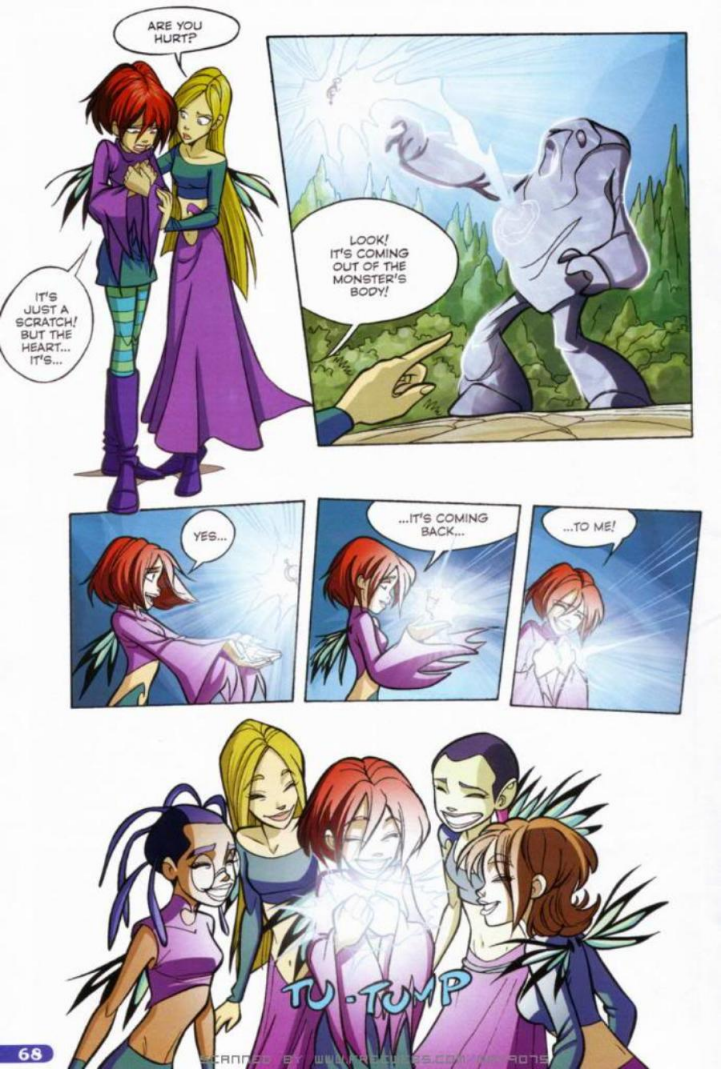

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IT CAN'T BE! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
MY HANDS! MY SKIN! I'M... I'M OLD AGAIN!
THAT'S RIGHT, TECLA! AND THE ONLY RAGORLANG YOU'VE GOT LEFT HAS BEEN WEAKENED! NOW IT'S AS HARMLESS AND DEFENSELESS AS YOU ARE!
FEELING BETTER, DR. FOLKNER?
YES, NO THANKS TO THE TWO OF YOU!
I WAS ORDERED TO HIT YOU, BUT NOW I KNOW HOW TO MAKE UP FOR IT!
NO! STOP! ARE YOU CRAZY?

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FOLKNER! IS THAT TRAP HOLDING THE ENERGY OF ALL THE RAGORLANGS THAT...
THAT I'VE CAPTURED OVER THE COURSE OF MY LONG CAREER? YES!
WE'VE KEPT OUR PROMISE... WE LET YOU USE IT... BUT NOW, WE CAN'T LEAVE IT IN YOUR HANDS!
I IMAGINE YOU AREN'T INTERESTED IN KNOWING THAT I BUILT IT MYSELF, STUDIED IT CAREFULLY, FOUND THE RIGHT MATERIALS, MADE INCREDIBLE SACRIFICES...
...AND THAT IT TOOK ME FIFTEEN LONG YEARS OF HARD WORK! A DIFFICULT, RISKY JOB DONE IN SECRECY!
I'M SORRY, BUT IT'S ONLY FAIR!
NO! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S FAIR!

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WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU...
IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I DO WHAT I'VE NEVER HAD THE COURAGE TO DO BEFORE!

IT'S ONLY FAIR THAT I UNITE WITH MY SHADOWS. WITH THE MONSTERS I'VE BATTLED! BECAUSE THERE CAN'T BE GOOD WITHOUT...

AAARGH!

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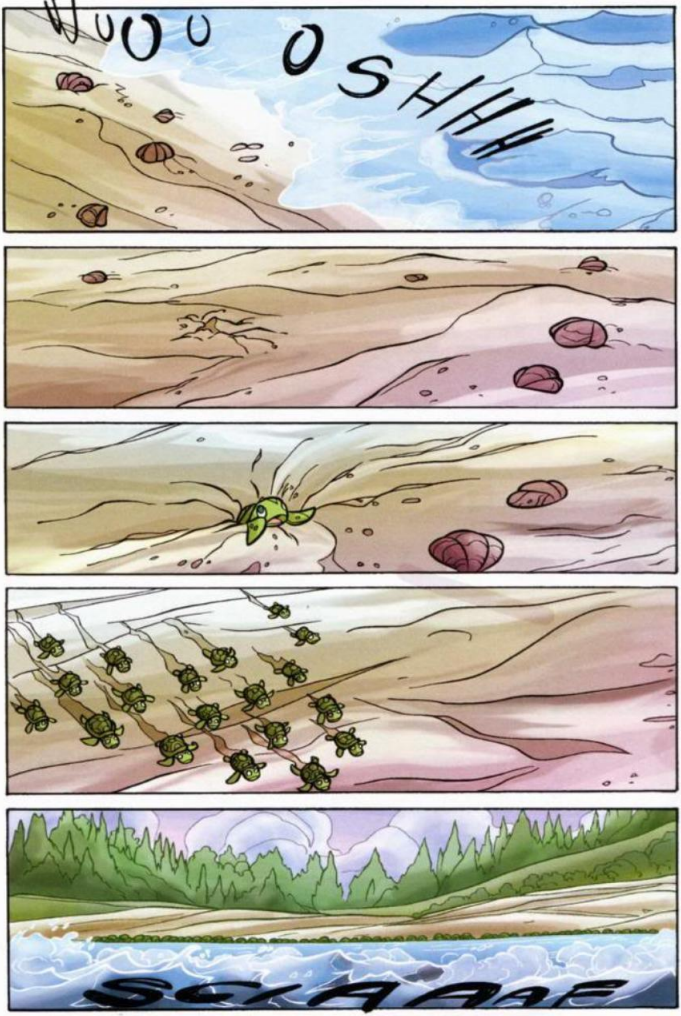

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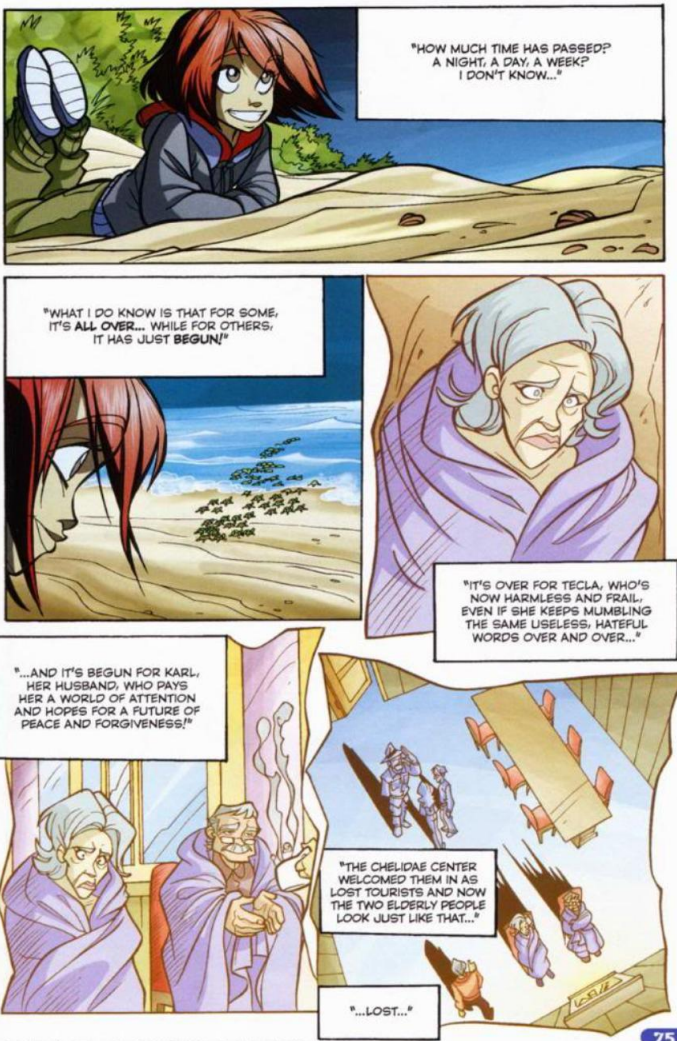
"HOW MUCH TIME HAS PASSED? A NIGHT, A DAY, A WEEK? I DON'T KNOW..."
"WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT FOR SOME, IT'S ALL OVER... WHILE FOR OTHERS, IT HAS JUST BEGUN!"
"IT'S OVER FOR TECLA, WHO'S NOW HARMLESS AND FRAIL, EVEN IF SHE KEEPS MUMBLING THE SAME USELESS, HATEFUL WORDS OVER AND OVER..."
"...AND IT'S BEGUN FOR KARL, HER HUSBAND, WHO PAYS HER A WORLD OF ATTENTION AND HOPES FOR A FUTURE OF PEACE AND FORGIVENESS!"
"THE CHELIDAE CENTER WELCOMED THEM IN AS LOST TOURISTS AND NOW THE TWO ELDERLY PEOPLE LOOK JUST LIKE THAT..."
"...LOST..."

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"IT'S ALSO OVER FOR THE OLD FOLKNER, WHO WAS OBSESSED BY HIS HUNT FOR SHADOWS..."
"...AND IT'S BEGUN FOR THE NEW FOLKNER, WHO, ONCE HE'D ABSORBED THE ENERGY OF THE RAGORLANGS, VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!"
"BEFORE IT EVEN BEGAN, AN UNLIKELY LOVE STORY WAS OVER..."
"BUT MAYBE A NEW FRIENDSHIP HAS BEGUN..."
LOST IN THOUGHT?
GUYS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

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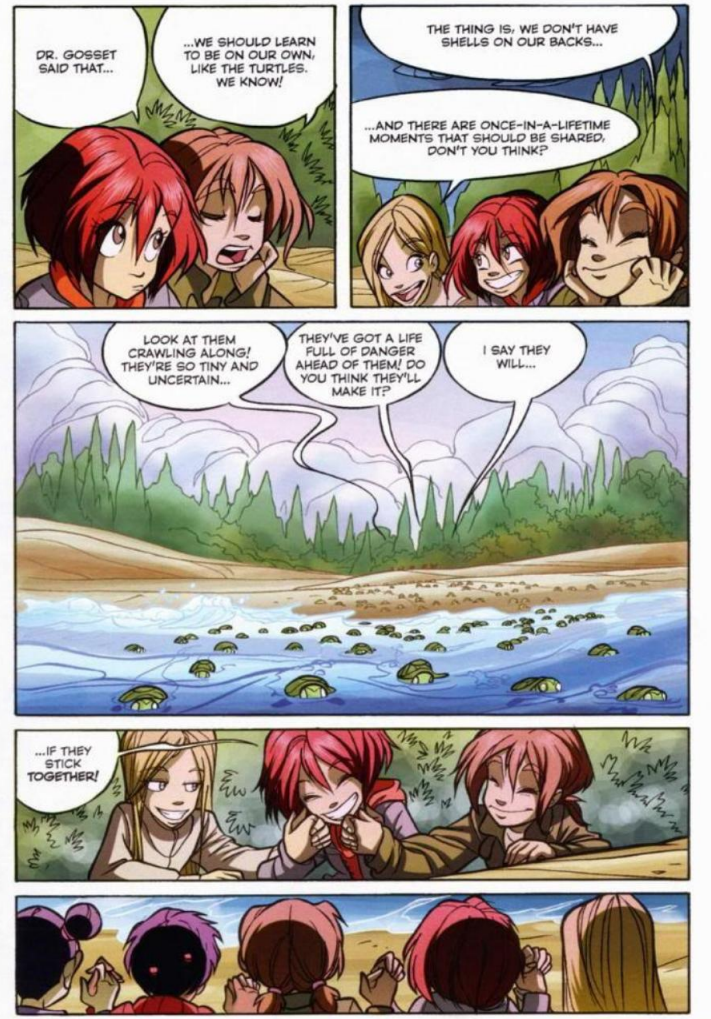
DR. GOSSET SAID THAT...
...WE SHOULD LEARN TO BE ON OUR OWN, LIKE THE TURTLES. WE KNOW!
THE THING IS, WE DON'T HAVE SHELLS ON OUR BACKS...
...AND THERE ARE ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME MOMENTS THAT SHOULD BE SHARED, DON'T YOU THINK?
LOOK AT THEM CRAWLING ALONG! THEY'RE SO TINY AND UNCERTAIN...
THEY'VE GOT A LIFE FULL OF DANGER AHEAD OF THEM! DO YOU THINK THEY'LL MAKE IT?
I SAY THEY WILL...
...IF THEY STICK TOGETHER!

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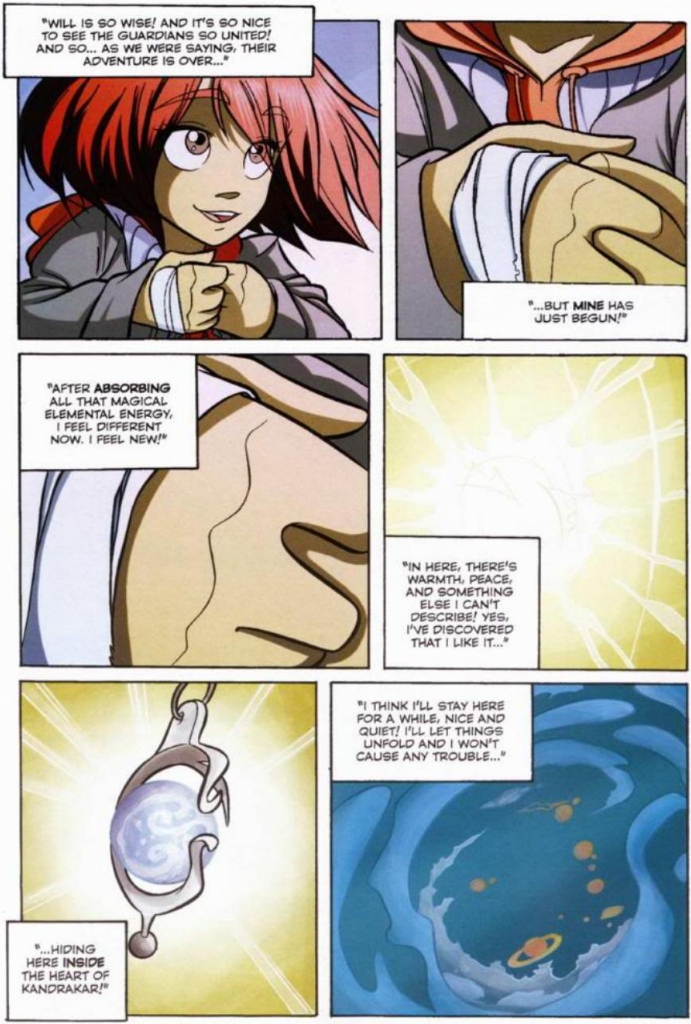
"WILL IS SO WISE! AND IT'S SO NICE TO SEE THE GUARDIANS SO UNITED! AND SO... AS WE WERE SAYING, THEIR ADVENTURE IS OVER..."
"...BUT MINE HAS JUST BEGUN!"
"AFTER ABSORBING ALL THAT MAGICAL ELEMENTAL ENERGY, I FEEL DIFFERENT NOW. I FEEL NEW!"
"IN HERE, THERE'S WARMTH, PEACE, AND SOMETHING ELSE I CAN'T DESCRIBE! YES, I'VE DISCOVERED THAT I LIKE IT..."
"...HIDING HERE INSIDE THE HEART OF KANDRAKAR!"
"I THINK I'LL STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, NICE AND QUIET! I'LL LET THINGS UNFOLD AND I WON'T CAUSE ANY TROUBLE..."

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